

Washington, DC-Wednesday, Congressman Harry Teague announced that \$2.89 million in Recovery Act funding will go to federal building and port of entry projects in Las Cruces and Columbus. \$2.447 million of the funding will go to the Columbus Land Port of Entry for renovations. \$444,000 will go to the Runnels Federal Building in Las Cruces to begin conversion into a high-performance energy green building. The announcement is part of a nationwide plan by the General Services Administration (GSA) to allocate the \$5.5 billion authorized within the Recovery Act for the Public Buildings Service Federal Buildings Fund.

"This funding will help boost our economy in southern New Mexico by quickly creating jobs renovating our federal buildings and making them more energy efficient," said Congressman Harry Teague. "Critical renovations to the Port of Entry at Columbus will help our federal agents maintain the security of our borders. Beginning to modernize the Runnels building so that it will be more energy efficient is not only the responsible thing to do, it will save taxpayers money by increasing efficiency."

According to the GSA projects were selected based on two overarching criteria: Ability of the project to put people back to work quickly, and transforming Federal buildings into high-performance green buildings. A nationally managed, regionally executed Program Management Office has been established to oversee all Recovery Act projects. The office will be staffed with experts in various fields to support the regional teams delivering the projects.

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